Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 25 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Thursday 24 Dec 2020 at 09:05

Confidence: High confidence for a bright start to Christmas Day but a deep low affecting the country on Boxing Day bringing strong winds and rain. Also high confidence for a change to very cold conditions and wintry showers. Lower confidence for location of wintry showers.

Headline for Friday 25 Dec 2020: A dry and bright start to Christmas but clouding over with light rain later. Strong winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 25 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Sleet showers	Dull	Light rain showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	<05%	10%	10%	40%	40%	40%

Forecast for Friday 25 Dec 2020

Weather: More in the way of cloud after midnight but still clear spelsl and a moderate frost. It will be a dry and bright start to the day with a moderate frost likely. Some sunny intervals during the morning but increasing cloud cover as the day wears on. During the afternoon it will become quite dull with a few outbreaks of sleet, drizzle or light rain showers. Rain becoming a bit more persistent for a time later in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 70% for much of the day there will only be high level cloud but by mid afternoon some lower cloud may shroud the tops at times, particularly in the west.

Visibility: Mainly very good, perhaps moderate in light rain outbreaks during the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 25 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	23/26 N	19/22 N	19/22 N	18/21 SW	22/26 SW	27/32 SW	31/38 SW	35/44 SW	35/46 W
600	14/19 N	13/17 N	9/11 NW	10/13 SW	15/20 SW	20/27 SW	25/34 SW	28/38 SW	28/40 W
300	5/15 N	4/13 NW	3/12 NW	3/12 W	4/14 SW	6/19 SW	9/25 W	11/29 SW	13/31 W
Valley	8/20 N	4/13 N	2/9 N	2/8 W	3/10 SW	8/21 W	11/27 W	14/31 SW	15/32 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-13	-4/-12	-4/-11	-3/-10	-2/-9	-1/-9	-0/-9	1/-7	2/-6
600	-3/-10	-3/-9	-3/-7	-1/-6	-0/-6	1/-5	2/-5	3/-4	4/-3
300	-2/-5	-2/-4	-1/-3	0/-2	2/0	3/1	4/0	5/1	6/2
Valley	1/-3	0/-2	1/-1	2/-0	4/2	6/3	6/3	7/3	8/4
Freezing Level*	00m	00m	00m	200m	500m	800m	900m	1400m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Freezing level lifting quite quickly during the day so most precipitation in the afternoon will be rain. Northerly winds backing southwesterly and strengthening as milder air pushes in across the area.

Forecast for Saturday 26 Dec 2020

Weather: Mainly dry and cloudy in the early hours with a few rain showers but thicker cloud and rain will spread across the Lake District during the morning and it will be very windy, possibly storm force on the Fell tops. A few sleety or snow showers for the highest tops like Helvellyn and Scafell Pike.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 30-35mph gusts 50-55mph, gusts around 70mph likely on higher tops.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20% chance, most of the fell tops will be shrouded by extensive low cloud with a base around 500m especially in the west, in the east cloud bases will be around 700m and there will be a few more gaps.

Visibility: Mainly poor especially in rain in the afternoon. Perhaps moderate for a time in the morning.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 1000m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 24 December 2020. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:45. A beautiful day up on the Helvellyn Edges with plenty of folk out enjoying the winter conditions and working up an appetite for their Christmas dinner. The snow cover was reasonably evenly distributed across the fellside above 600m being generally boot deep with drifts up to knee deep.. However looking across to Scafell Pike and the Central Fells it appeared that there was less coverage out west. There was plenty of evidence (including some great raised footprints on the plateau) that strong NE winds had redistributed the snow mainly on to slopes with a S through W aspect meaning the easier routes from the Thirlmere side also had a good covering. Generally the snow was dry and soft with just a hint of a crust developing.

Down in the valleys there had been a hard frost overnight. Above 400m there were large areas of ice on the paths. However this hazard became less of a concern once the snowline was reached at 600m. Conditions on the Edges were good with dry rock and a good covering of snow meaning that microspikes were probably the best option today. Disappointingly there were a large number of ill equipped walkers out and about. Fortunately the snow was in a very forgiving state and good progress could be made with positive footwork in winter boots. However the snow pack is already beginning to consolidate and go through a freeze thaw process which can quickly result in far more serious conditions. Anyone venturing above the snow line should be equipped with an ice axe and crampons along with full winter clothing and equipment. Climbers - Conditions are beginning to build very nicely. East facing crags were well rimed above 750m and any exposed turf was well frozen. Temperature: minus 5.2 C Maximum wind speed 26.5 mph Wind chill: minus 15.6 C Average wind speed: 17.3 mph.

Issued at: 0905 on Thu 24 Dec 2020

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